In the Claims

Claim 1 (Original): A particle comprising chitosan, or a derivative thereof; and a polynucleotide.

Claim 2 (Original): The nanoparticle of claim 1, wherein said particle further comprises a lipid, and wherein said particle comprises a complex of said chitosan, said polynucleotide, and said lipid.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The particle of ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a cytokine.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The particle of ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes interferon gamma.

Claim 5 (Original): A composition comprising a particle and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said particle comprises chitosan, or a derivative thereof, and a polynucleotide.

Claim 6 (Original): The composition of claim 5, wherein said particle further comprises a lipid, and wherein said particle comprises a complex of said chitosan, said polynucleotide, and said lipid.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The composition of ~~claims 5 or 6~~ claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a cytokine.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The composition of ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide encodes interferon gamma.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Original): A method for delivery and expression of a polynucleotide within a host, said method comprising administering a particle to the host, wherein the particle comprises chitosan, or a derivative thereof, and a polynucleotide.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the particle further comprises a lipid, and wherein the particle is a complex of the chitosan, polynucleotide, and lipid.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The method of ~~claims 10 or 11~~ claim 10, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a cytokine.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The method of ~~any of claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, wherein the polynucleotide encodes interferon gamma.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The method of ~~any of claims 10 to 15~~ claim 10, wherein the particle is administered within a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 17 (Original): A method for enhancing interferon-gamma expression to regulate the production of cytokines secreted by T-helper type 2 (Th2) cells, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a particle to a subject, wherein the particle comprises chitosan, or a derivative thereof, and a polynucleotide encoding interferon-gamma.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is human.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The method of ~~claims 17 or 18~~ claim 17, wherein the subject is suffering from asthma.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method of ~~any of claims 17 to 19~~ claim 17, wherein the particle is administered to the respiratory tract of the subject.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A method for producing a particle comprising a complex of chitosan, or a derivative thereof, and a polynucleotide, said method comprising mixing the polynucleotide and the chitosan or chitosan derivative, to form the particle.

~~comprising a complex of the polynucleotide and the chitosan or chitosan derivative. Optionally, the method further comprises mixing (complexing) a lipid with the polynucleotide and chitosan or chitosan derivative to form a particle (chlipid) comprising a complex of the polynucleotide, chitosan or chitosan derivative, and the lipid.~~

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The method of claim 21, ~~and~~ wherein said method further comprises mixing a lipid with the polynucleotide and the chitosan or chitosan derivative, wherein the particle comprises a complex of the polynucleotide, chitosan or chitosan derivative, and the lipid.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)